

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 /086 W

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O R 191355Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5297

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBSSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 2022

3.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PINR, SF

SUBJECT: FURTHER BANNING ORDERS

REF: (A) STATE 7247 (B) JOHANNESBURG 2012 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AS OF NOVEMBER 18, FOURTEEN LEADERS
OF ORGANIZATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH BLACK UNIONS
HAVE BEEN BANNED UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT.
ORGANIZED LABOR AND MANAGEMENT WERE SHOCKED BUT
NOT SURPRISED BY THE BANNING ORDERS WHICH APPEAR
TO REFLECT OFFICIAL CONCERN OVER THE
INCREASING STRENGTH OF BLACK UNIONS IN SOUTH
AFRICA. END OF SUMMARY.

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IN ADDITION TO THE THREE URBAN TRAINING

PROJECT (UTP) MEMBERS MENTIONED IN JOHANNESBURG 2012 BANNINGS WERE SERVED NOVEMBER 17 ON MR SIPHO KUBEKHA, AGED 23, AND MR GAVIN ANDESON, AGED 24, THE SECRETARY AND ORGANIZER OF THE JOHANNESBURG BRANCH OF THE BLACK METAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION. (DURBAN IS REPORTING SEPARATELY ON THE BANNING OF A FURTHER EIGHT PEOPLE ON NOVEMBER 18 WHO ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATAL-BASED TRADE UNION ADVISORY AND COORDINATING COUNCIL (TUACC), REPRESENTING FIVE BLACK TRADE UNIONS WITH A CLAIMED MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN 50,000 AND 60,000 AND THE DURBAN INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS.) A NINTH TRADE UNION LEADER IS REPORTEDLY STILL BEING SOUGH IN NATAL.

3. MISS JEANEETT CURTIS, AN ACTIVIST AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS WAS ALSO BANNED ON NOVEMBER 18. SHE IS REPORTEDLY A FORMER OFFICIAL OF THE INDUSTRIAL AID SOCIETY, AN ORGANIZATION WHICH PROVIDES TRAINING AND LEGAL ADVICE TO BLACK WORKERS.

4. UNDER THE BANNING ORDERS, THE 14 PERSONS SO FAR AFFECTED WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ENGAGE IN PUBLIC ACTIVITIES OR BE IN GROUPS OF MORE THAN THREE PERSONS FOR FIVE YEARS. THEY ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING LEGAL ADVICE ON HOW THEIR ACTIVITIES WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE BANNINGS.

5. THE CURRENT CRACKDOWN ON BLACK TRADE UNIONS HAS BEEN COMPARED TO SAG ACTIONS IN THE EARLY 1960'S AGAINST OFFICIALS OF TWO FORMER BLACK LABOR CONFEDERATIONS, THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (SACTU) WHICH HAD 46 UNIONS AFFILIATED WITH IT AND A MEMBERSHIP OF 53,000 IN 1961, AND THE FEDERATION OF FREE AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS (FOFATUSA), WHICH HAD 20 UNIONS AFFILIATED WITH 36,000 MEMBERS IN 1962.

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6. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THE INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION (IMF) HAS ISSUED A WARNING THAT IF THE CURRENT BANNINGS ARE NOT LIFTED, IT WILL LAUNCH A WORLD-WIDE CAMPAIGN OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY FOR THE AFFECTED PERSON.

7. IN A MEETING WITH THE REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER ON NOVEMBER 18 BLACK OFFICIALS OF THE TEN UTP UNIONS INDICAED THEIR INTENTIN TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE UTP DESPIT E THE BANNING OF ITS LEADERS. JANE HLONGWONE, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE BLACK ENGINEERING AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION SAID THE SAG AUTHORITIES SOULD REALIZE THAT THERE ARE ELEMENTS WHICH WOULD LIKE TO USE BLACK WORKERS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES WHICH ARE WAITING FOR OPPORTUNIZS SUCH AS THE BANNING OF PEOPLE OPERATING WITHIN THE LAW. ARTHUR GROBBELAAR GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE MIXED TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (TUCSA) DEPLORED THE BANNINGS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE ARCHBISHOP OF DURBAN, REV DENIS HURLEY, DESCRIBED THE BANNED UTP LEADERS AS DEDICATED ANTI-COMMUNISTS AND DEVOTED CHRISTIANS. LABOR CONSULTATNTS AND PERSONNEL OFFICERS OF THE GIANT ANGOLO-AMEERICAN CORPORATIN AND SOUTH AFRICAN BREWERIES TOLD THE REGIONAL LABOFF THEY WERE SHOCKED BUT NOT SURPRISED BY THE BANNING ORDERS, WHICH ARE SEEN AS AN IMPULSIVE REACTIN BY THE SECURITY FORCES TOTHE RECENTLY EXPRESSED INTEREST OF SOME SOUTH AFRICAN MANAGEMENT GROUPS IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH BLACK LABOR.

8. COMMENT: THE BANNINGS WILL MAKE IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR ENLIGHTENED MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA TO RECOGNIZE OR DEAL WITH
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ORGANIZED BLACK LABOR. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SOME BLACK LABOR LEADES WILL BECOME DISCURAGED AND LEAVE THE COUNTRY AS THEY DID IN THE EARLY 1960'S.
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